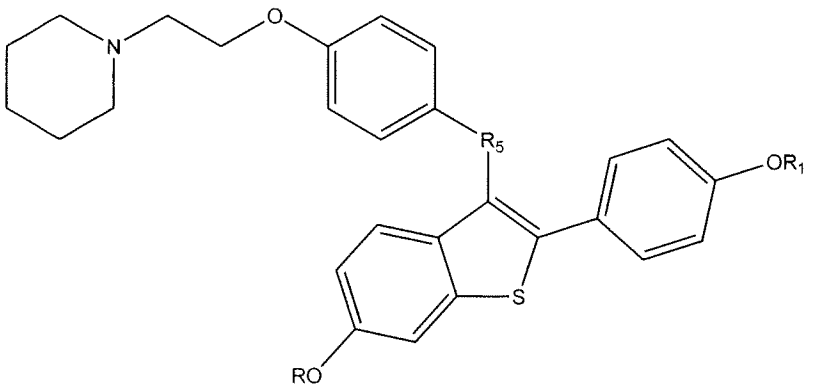
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 12, 23, 26, 29, 32, 57, and 60; cancel claims 2-3, 13-14, 24, 27, 30, and 33; and add new claims 63-88 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R_1 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR_2, —COR_3, and R_4,

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

R_3 is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O, and

wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 2-3 (Canceled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day only after the mammal fails to respond to treatment with the compound at an amount of about 60 mg per day.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

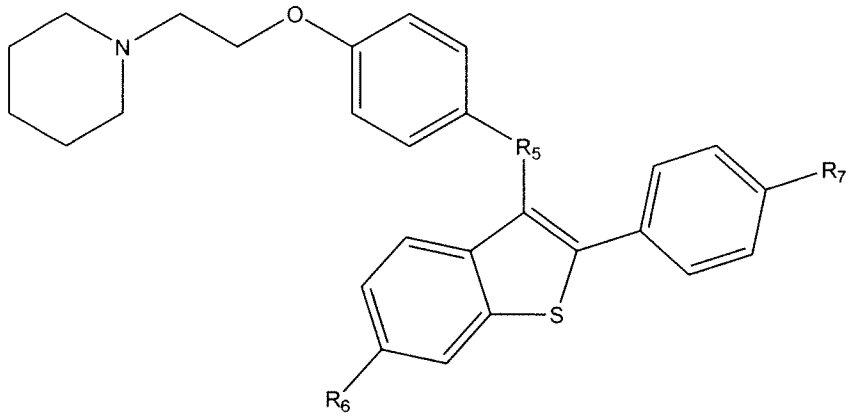
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered orally.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R and R_1 are both hydrogen.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R_5 is oxygen.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R_5 is –C=O.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O,

R_6 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and $-OR_8$,

R_8 is a hydroxy protecting group, and

at least one of R_6 and R_7 is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer, and

wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 13-14 (Canceled).

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day only after the mammal fails to respond to treatment with the compound at an amount of about 60 mg per day.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

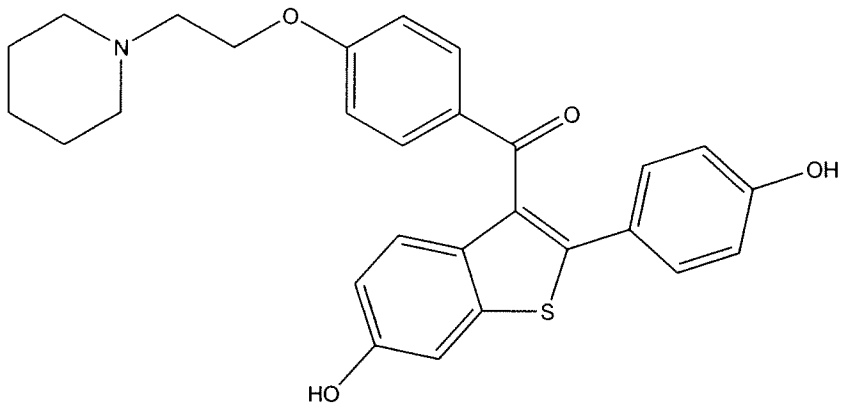
19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered orally.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R_6 and R_7 are both metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug, such that, following the metabolic process, a first hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_6 prior to the metabolic process and a second hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_7 prior to the metabolic process.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R_5 is oxygen.

22. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R_5 is –C=O.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula

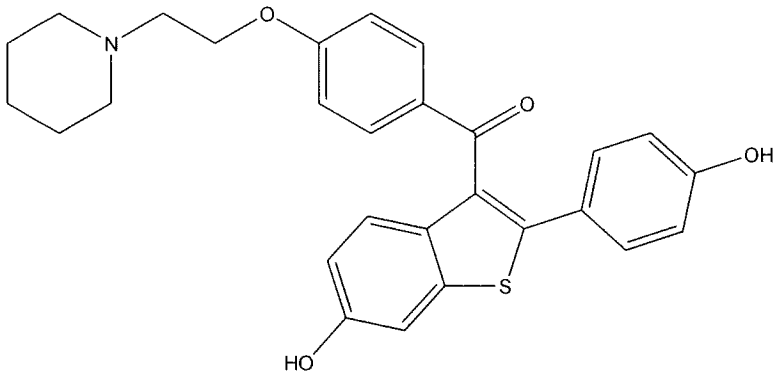


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula

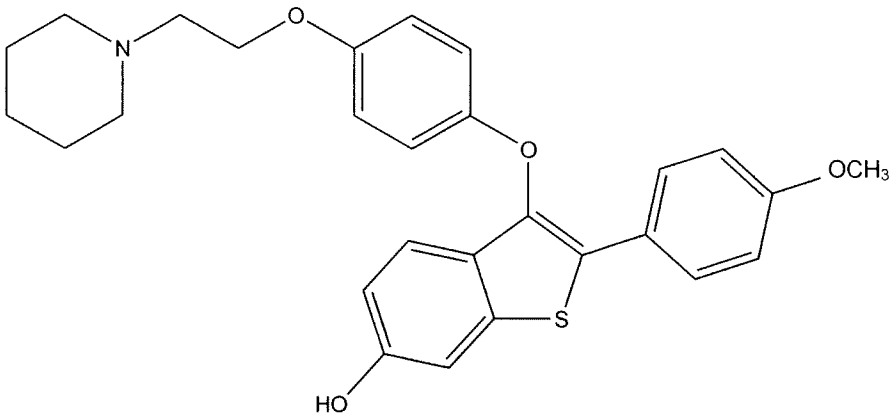


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula

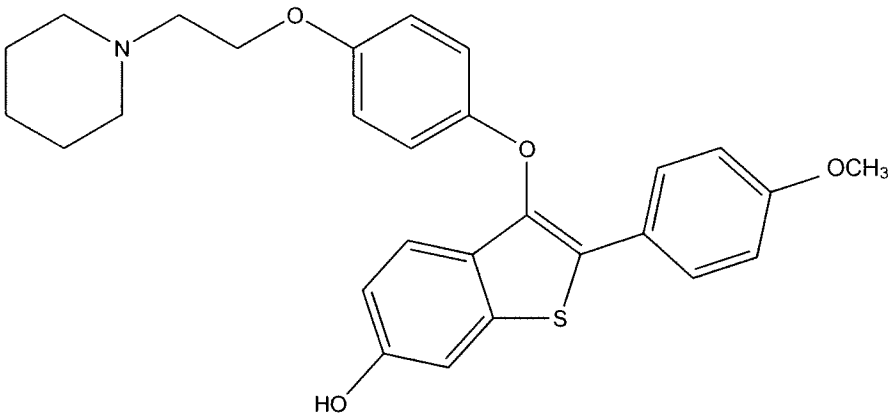


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula



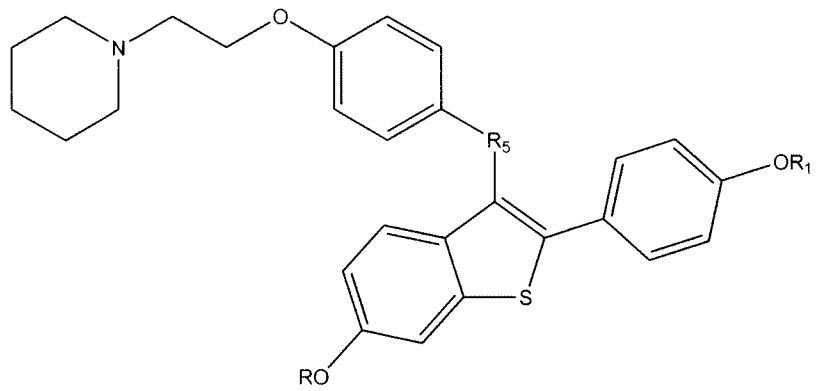
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

Claims 35-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R_1 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR_2, —COR_3, and R_4,

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

R_3 is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

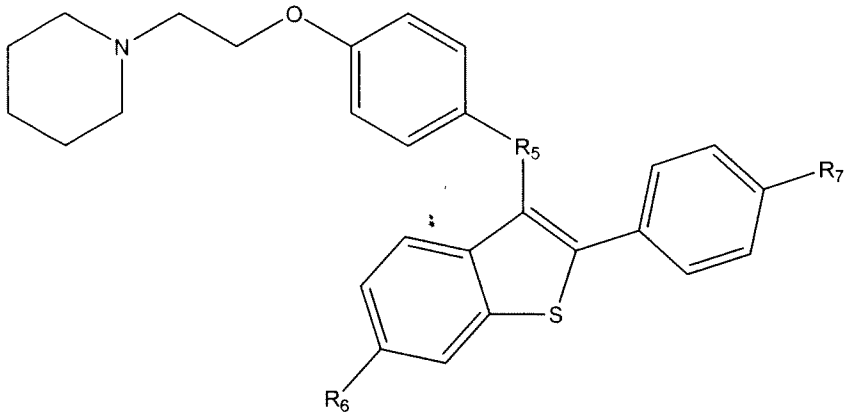
R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O, and

wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein R and R_1 are both hydrogen.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein R_5 is –C=O.

60. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O,

R_6 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and $-OR_8$,

R_8 is a hydroxy protecting group, and

at least one of R_6 and R_7 is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer, and

wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg to about 300 mg per day.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein R_6 and R_7 are both metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug, such that, following the metabolic process, a first hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_6 prior to the metabolic process and a second hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_7 prior to the metabolic process.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein R_5 is –C=O.

63. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

64. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

65. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

66. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

67. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

68. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

69. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

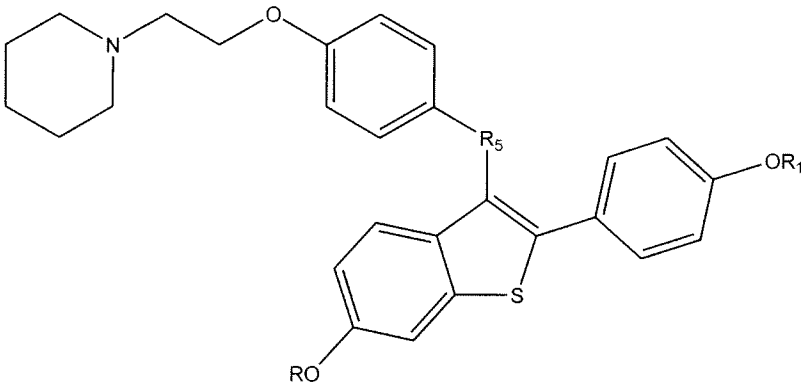
70. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

71. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

72. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

73. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R_1 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR_2, —COR_3, and R_4,

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

R_3 is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

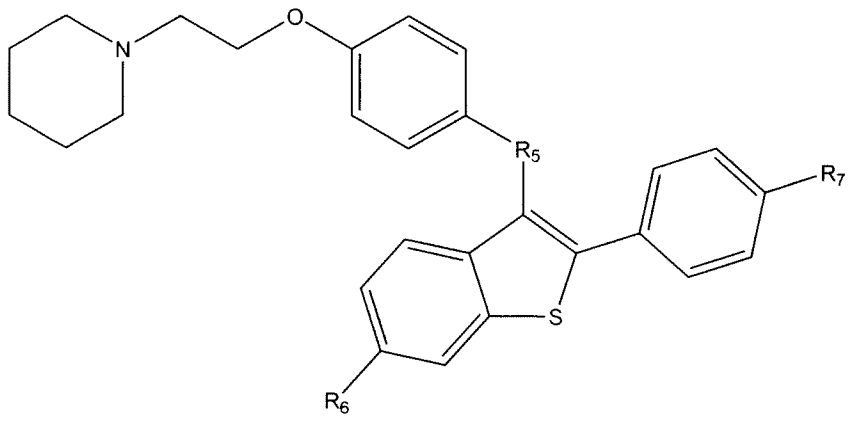
R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

75. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O,

R_6 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and $-OR_8$,

R_8 is a hydroxy protecting group, and

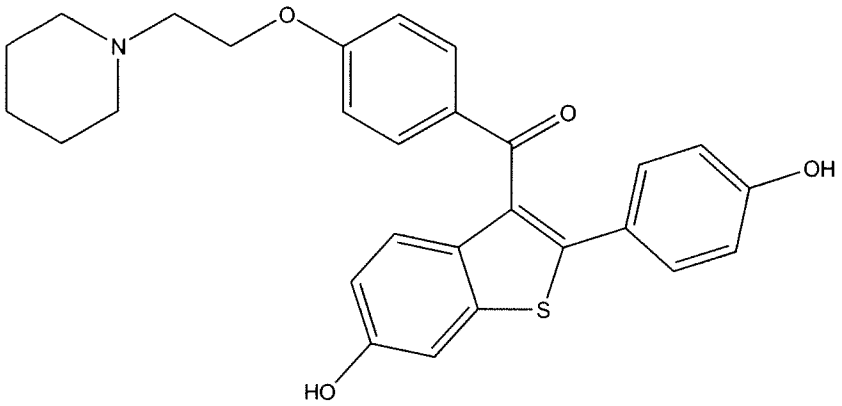
at least one of R_6 and R_7 is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

77. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



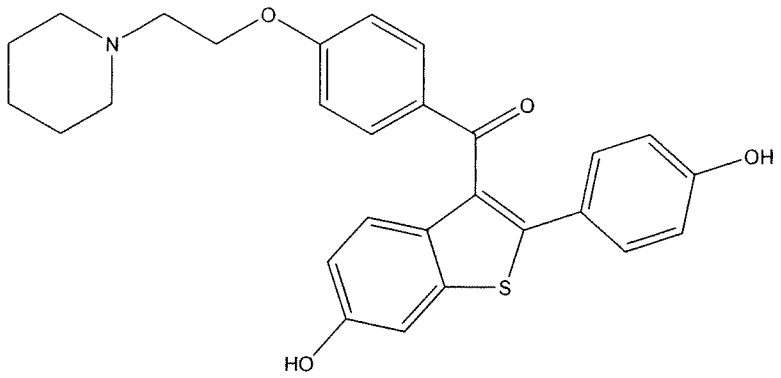
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

79. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula

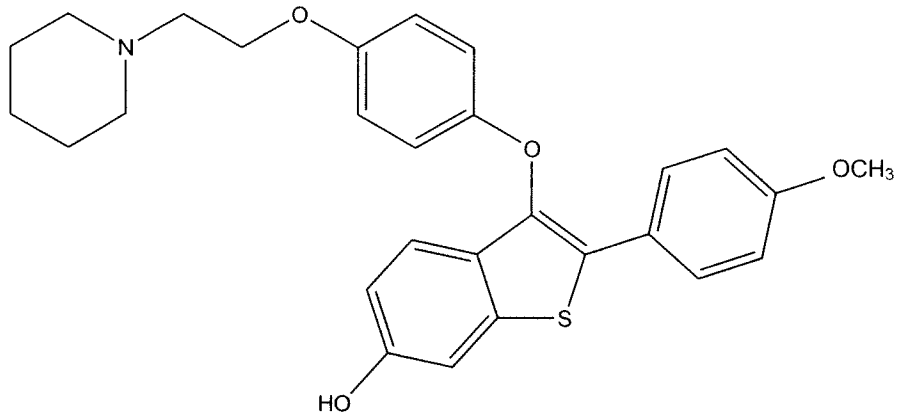


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

80. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

81. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula

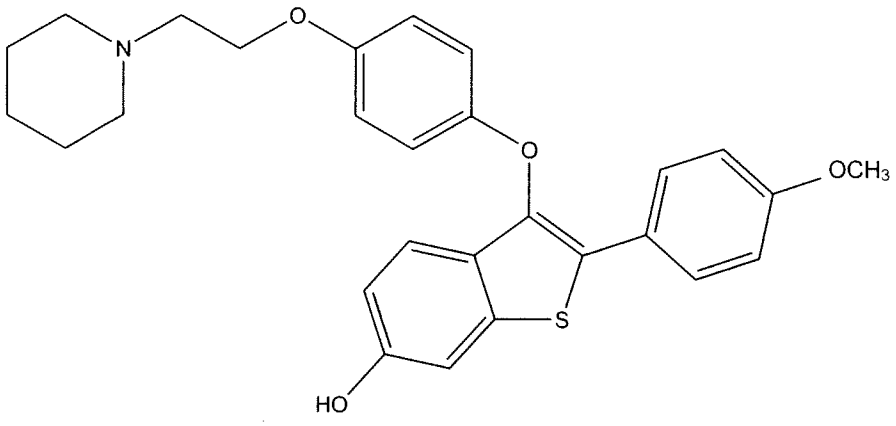


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

83. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula



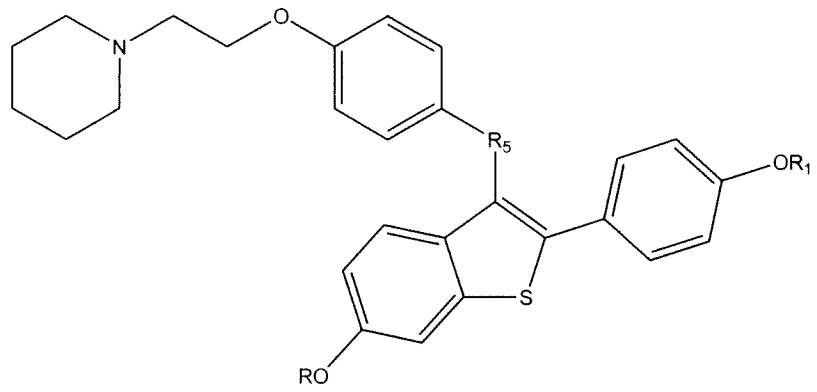
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

85. (New) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R_1 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR_2, —COR_3, and R_4,

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

R_3 is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

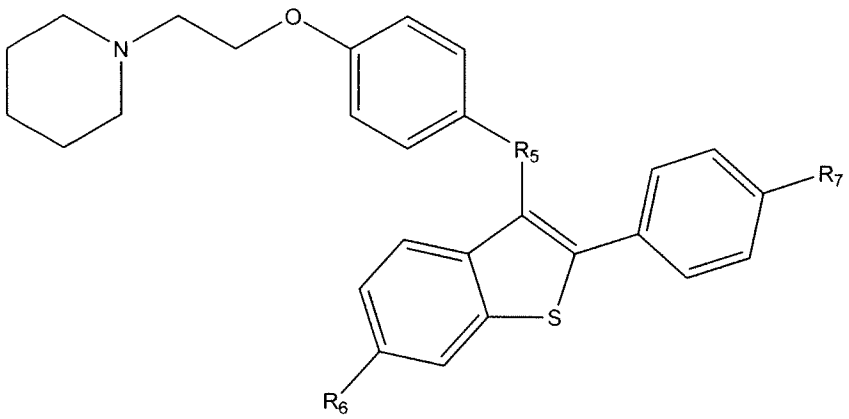
R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.

87. (New) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising

administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and –C=O,

R_6 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and $-OR_8$,

R_8 is a hydroxy protecting group, and

at least one of R_6 and R_7 is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer; and

administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.